WENDELL POST

Vol. XII No. 3 SEPTEMBER · OCTOBER · NOVEMBER 1989 50¢

Final Decisions

The town budget for FY'90, amounting to $949,144.01, was voted at the town meeting ending June 7, but there remained some matters that still had to be voted. So we had a meeting on June 20. There were three articles calling for a vote, none of them controversial. The Select Board had no problem getting agreement, but some of us, including myself, were told we must come in order to assure a quorum.

The first article was "to apply $38,000 in free cash to reduce the FY90 tax rate..." Actually that meant to make the tax rate no higher than the increased rate of $2.66 required by the budget. There was no opposition to that.

Each of the other two articles requiring a vote proposed an appropriation to pay interest on a loan to the town which it is understood (or hoped) that the state will reimburse. One of these was a sum of $86,792.07 to pay interest on the borrowing for the Swift River School Construction Project, plus $10,000 for any part of the interest payment exceeding what the state will reimburse. The other was to transfer $59,252.75 from the free cash account to the Wolfe Property Interest Account.

There was no opposition to these, but there was some discussion about what we might do if the state failed to purchase the Wolfe Property, including a suggestion that we might be forced to sell the property to a developer. Fortunately we're no longer faced with that threat. The state has bought the property and it now belongs to the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

After that meeting on June 29 just one more vote was necessary, an override vote required by Proposition 2½. That was voted on July 17. There seems to be an impression in some people's minds that the call for an override vote is a confession of poor management. It is much more likely to be a confession of expansion. There are some who think that's not as bad.

Julian Wadleigh

Inside Stories

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Important Notice!

As of July 17, 1989 DEQE has OFFICIALLY CLOSED THE LANDFILL PORTION of the Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station.

We are pursuing Wendell's options for the demolition-type materials that have been routinely dumped there. We are scratching our heads. ALL FORSEEABLE ALTERNATIVES ARE EXPENSIVE!

Possible solutions include trucking refuse to another facility or offering no service to Town residents for demolition-type disposal at all.

If service continues, solutions will inevitably have to include either User Fees increased Sticker Fees or raised taxes. All suggestions on how to handle this situation are welcome.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, NO DEMOLITION-TYPE REFUSE, STUMPS OR BRUSH WILL BE ACCEPTED.

The possible environmental impact from the Town Dump has been a concern to the Board of Health for quite some time. It is our firm belief THAT REDUCTION OF MATERIALS AT THE SOURCE AND RECYCLING ARE THE ONLY MEANS OF AN ULTIMATE SOLUTION.

Stay tuned for further developments.

Regional Support for TAX-Resisters

THANK YOU ALL !!!

The members of the Corner/Kehler Support Committee send our warmest appreciation for all the work you put into making the July 19 vigil/action such a tremendous success! Many of you put enormous time and energy into organizing food and community service bids at the auction or leafletting in your town. Others gave financial contributions to our campaign. Some contributed research, artistic, and carpentry skills. Each person's efforts were essential in bringing forth such magnificent results.

All of the work being done to support Betsy and Randy is carried out by volunteers in many towns in Franklin and Hampshire Counties. The Corner/Kehler Support Committee tries to coordinate these activities as best it can. Our basic idea has been to set up mini-support committees in every town (or group of small towns) to organize support for Randy and Betsy. The phone tree with a "key contact person" for each area, has been one attempt to promote this structure. Our hope is that the "key contact" will facilitate meetings and activities in his/her area, and call on the Support Committee if help is needed. Of course, anyone on the phone tree or mailing list may take on this role as well. The Corner/Kehler Support Committee can provide resources and direction, if needed.

What's Happening Now?

Since the auction on July 19th, Randy and Betsy have heard nothing directly from the IRS (or any other branch of the Federal Government). It appears that if the government were to attempt eviction, they would have to abide by the State of Massachusetts

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***Post policy is that every article be signed. We regret author credit omissions where authorship unknown.

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Special thanks to Craig Letoumead for the front page art.

CHEAP! One-way airline ticket from Bradley to San Francisco before November this year. Call Jonathan at 544-7425

Fire Log

5-6-89 Smoke investagation. Sears Rd.
5-15-89 Vehicle fire on Old Farley Rd.
5-19-89 Mutual Aid to Millers Falls, R.R. fire
6-6-89 Gas washdown. Farley and Schoolhouse roads.
7-6-89 Structure fire on Bear Mtn. Rd.
7-7-89 Smoke investagation.
8-6-89 Wires down in Wendell Center, Mormon Hollow Rd, Davis Rd., and Farley Rd.
8-11-89 Wires down on Mormon Hollow and Farley Roads.
8-14-89 False alarm at Swift River School.
8-16-89 Smoke investagated at Wendell Cointry Store.
8-17-89 False alarm at Swift River School.
8-27-89 Overturned vehicle on Old Farley Rd.

Land Transfers

2/03/89 David A. Frobel to Ralph C. & Wanda J. Browning-Stone Road, 1 acre & bldgs.
2/21/89 Harriet B. Wertman to David Wertman Stone Road, 16.292 A.
1/26/89 Walter C. Matthews,Jr. & Kathleen Matthews to Joanna L. Fischer and Thomas A. Harty-Jennison Road, 2.92 A. & bldgs.
3/31/89 Earle C. Lynde II to Stephen C. Constantine-Stone Road, 0.98 A. & bldgs.
3/06/89 Arthur E. Ruggles & Russell C. Woollacott to John E. & Barbara M. Madden on Elm Street, 0.69 A. & bldgs.
3/02/89 Conn. Valley Land Co., Inc. to Scott S. & Kelly A. Souza-Locks Village Ed., 3 acres.
3/17/89 Gael M. O'Connell to Robin Ann Driscoll and John Thomas McKenna-Montague Road, 8 acres & bldgs.
4/14/89 Pasquale Compagnone, Dominic Compagnone and Deacon Apollo Blues to Mark Smallidge-Davis Turn Road, 4.632 A. & bldgs.
4/06/89 Anne G. Zak to Barbara Liberty-Lock Hill Road #2, 5.2077 A.
4/24/89 William J. Packard to Joseph A. LeVangie, Jr. & Ina C. LeVangie-Rush Rd., 5.63 acres.
4/21/89 Peter & Ann B. Humphry to MDC-Jennison Road, 52.2 acres.
5/23/89 Charles P. Molinari to Astro & Bethany A. Minty-New Salem Rd, 7 acres.
6/21/89 Jimmy L. Fikes & Barbara E. Boatner to Duncan J. Draper-Locks Village Rd., 5.05 acres & bldgs.
6/08/89 William A. & Linda B. Facey to Joseph A. & Carol A. Diemand-Mormon Hollow Road, 35,555 sq. ft.
6/20/89 Charles A. Laliberte to Francesco Apollo Compagnone & Denise Piazza-Lock Hill Rd. #1, 6.7 acres.

Equinox Celebration

For Born Again Pagans and all others who honor our earth:

The Tribe will gather at a suitable sacred site - the Recycle and Transfer Station, at 6:30 on Sunday, September 17th.

There will be hot spiced cider, pot luck munchies, campfire, ritual and song.

Course in Miracles

The Course in Miracles is a radical approach to experience. It says, "There is no universal theology, but there is an universal experience." It uses terms that Jews and Christians will recognize, but in a very different way. In summary it says: "Nothing real can be threatened. Nothing unreal exists. Herein lies the Peace of God."

We will begin on Sunday, September 24 at 7:00 PM in the Meeting House.

No charge for the course.

from the Selectboard

The Selectboard is looking for individuals interested in the following appointments:

- Recreation Committee (2 members)
- Franklin County Solid Waste District Committee (1 representative and 1 alternate).

Please call any member of the Selectboard if you are interested in any of these exciting opportunities.

Lake breaking news ... Margaret Houghton of Montague Road is the new dog officer. Her telephone number is 544-7773.

Raytheon News Release

The Greater Boston YMCA has honored Byron J. Ricketts from Raytheon as a 1988 Black Achievers award recipient.

Ricketts is manager of affirmative action and personnel programs for Raytheon's Microwave & Power Tube Division, headquartered in Waltham, Mass. He joined the company in 1961 as an assembler for the Hawk missile.

Ricketts holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Northeastern University.

The YMCA established the Black Achievers award in 1975 to recognize individuals for outstanding commitment, skill and dedication that has led to success in their professional lives.

Black Achievers donate an average of 40 hours annually to students in the greater Boston area. The purpose is to share their career experiences, answer questions and serve as role models for youth.

Ricketts lives in Wendell, Mass.

Raytheon News Release
5/27/88

Herbal Health Care
Kate Gilday
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- women's well being
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$15 - $25/hr - acute & chronic ailments
Call 544-2121

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A fully insured and licensed Daycare with a happy healthy atmosphere for your child
for more info call Nancy 544-3267

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(508) 544-7902

the Human Tide

Gaining people, losing ground-Holland, VT

I come from a family of five children. It is obvious from that statement that my parents had little concern for an over-population problem back in the 1950s and 60s when they were making babies. When it came down to action and awareness, copulation took precedence over population. Had my parents stopped having children after the second child, they would have at least been contributing toward the desperately needed goal of zero population growth, a possible but far less noble goal than negative population growth. But my parents became instantly irresponsible when their third child , yours truly, was conceived, and then another, and another.

I am now thirty years old and childless; my wife is twenty-nine. We are aware of biological clocks and realize the wisdom in having children within the next five years or so, should we choose to. There is just one problem though. While studying wildlife biology at college I learned the term "carrying capacity," and it refers to a habitat's limitations for supporting a given population. Most ecologically aware people would agree that Earth's carrying capacity for human beings was exceeded long ago; when and by how much could be debated forever, but nobody with any global vision and respect for life forms other than our own would contest that we humans are far too numerous, spreading across this planet with all of our destructive ways, like a cancer.

The facts are sobering and crystal clear Today, approximately 350,000 births and 110,000 deaths took place on Earth, giving us 240,000 additional human beings. On our tiny, finite planet we are adding nearly 90 million people every year. From 1950 to 1986 the world population doubled and reached five billion people. It is expected to double again by the year 2050. And as we continue on this suicidal course, by the year 2000 we can expect desertification to have claimed an area over 1.5 times the size of the U.S.; nearly half the world's forests will have been destroyed, ane one-fifth of the world's plant and animal species will be extinct.

Little bells should be going off in the minds of people who are considering giving birth to more than one child. If people are leading typical American lifestyles (consuming electricity, oil and gasoline, natural gas, supermarket foods, etc.) then it is a mistake having even one child. Consider the facts. Americans make up only 5% of the world population but consume 28% of the world energy. A typical American child will contribute more to our global crisis than nearly any other child on Earth This is a cold,hard fact wrapped in a disposable diaper.

Adoption is a serious alternative for people concerned about adding any new humans to the planet, and my wife and I hav considered it. But it is difficult to deny the desire to share a pregnancy, birth, and raising of your own child; it is primal and lurks within the deepest tangles of our genetic material. We have been doing it for quite awhile.

I am inclined not to have children of our own, not only because of the impact

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COMING SOON

NOV: DAVE LIPPMAN

DEC: ROLLING RIVER STRING BAND

JAN: JUDY AND THE JETS

Painting the Station, OR, Home Sweet Home

The new highway garage and fire station is now home to the highway and fire departments. The move took place in the Spring and has gone on all summer. It's been a pleasure to be there!

Although the departments are now operating out of the new building it is a long way from being completed. One of the things that I see (as most folks who by will notice) is that the outside was never finished being painted. While at the Country Store one day, a friend, Jonathon Dorr asked me about himself and a few people he knows finishing the side visible from the road. We talked and left it that when the supplies were gathered I would contact him. He would then be in charge of doing that one side. Well, the next time I was at the station I looked at what needed painting and thought that with a few of my friends, on one these sunny, fall days we could finish. Anyway I wondered if there's anyone else out there who might want to gather a few friends together to help out our town. So think about it - but not too long because winter is coming and we can't paint outside when it gets too cold. Please call me if you're interested at 544-6111.

Anne Diemand

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

The Council on Aging is interested in ALL Wendell residents and its primary interest and concern is your health. For this reason we provide a Blood Pressure screening every month plus a Cholesterol Clinic and a Diabetic Clinic at specified times. A recent survey shows that people who have attended wish these morning screenings to continue.

The first Wednesday of each month is an important date as it is Blood Pressure Screening day with Tom Thompson. R.N.. of Community Health Services of Athol officiating. It generally is patronized by about 20 people - mostly senior citizens.

As this takes place at 10 to 11 o'clock in the morning, people who work days are unable to attend. It was felt that an evening Blood Pressure Screening should be arranged for the younger working class of people. Being younger, some persons think there is no need to have their blood pressure taken, but the fact is that many times younger people are not aware their blood pressure is high, so it is really important to find out what your blood pressure is. Statistics show that persons in the 30 to 50 age group DO run into trouble with high blood pressure. Therefore, the last Wednesday of each month from 7 to 8 in the evening at the Wendell Town Hall there will be a blood Pressure Screening. Please call and let us know if you are interested.

Raymond Avery...544 3338
Lucille Lewis...544 6317
Elsie Diemand...544 6317

This evening program began in July and we had hoped to carry it on through November and continue on again in April. However, at the July 26th evening screening there were six people who came. On August 30th there was only one person. There will be another blood pressure screening on September 27th, but if there is not a better showing, the evening screening will have to be discontinued.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS
open to everyone 18 years & older at the Wendell Town Hall
sponsored by: Council on Aging

AUGUST 30,	7-8 PM	(last Wed. of the month)
SEPT. 6,	10-11 AM	(first Wed. of the month)
SEPT. 27,	7-8 PM	(last Wed. of the month)
OCT. 4,	10-11 AM	(first Wed. of the month)
OCT. 25,	7-8 PM	(last Wed. of the month)
NOV. 1,	10-11 AM	(first Wed. of the month)
NOV. 29,	7-8 PM	(last Wed. of the month)
DEC. 6,	10-11 AM	(first Wed. of the month)
DEC. 27,	7-8 PM	(last Wed. of the month)
JAN. 3,	10-11 AM	(first Wed. of the month)

For additional information call Lucille Lewis 544-6317 or Janice Barrett 544-3395

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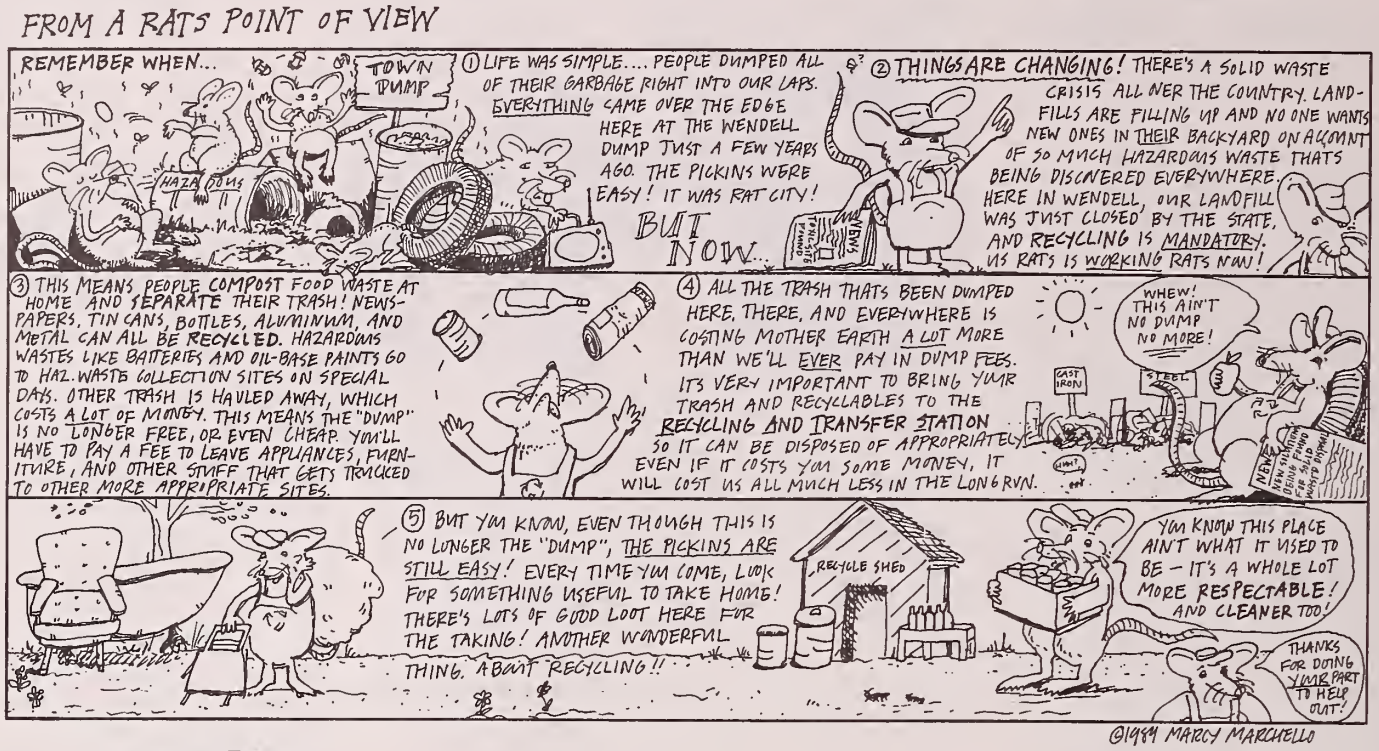

Recycling/ Landfill News

As most people know by now our landfill was closed by the State in mid-July. As would be expected the Compactor and the Open-top containers are being sent out more frequently as they are handling much of the "unwanted materials" which were formerly landfilled. This increased cost to the Town is expected to be considerable and is not reflected in our current budget. The Board of Health has put much thought, time and energy into trying to provide an equitable, economical, and ecological procedure to deal with the problem. We've solicited resident input, held an informational meeting, surveyed regional towns and researched our options as thoroughly as possible in a short period of time. Our conclusion is that the Town must continue to expand our recycling program and institute a fair user fee system. This policy reflects our goal of creating a fiscally and environmentally sound program. We feel that it would be unwise and unfair to cover these costs with an across the board tax increase.

Over the past several years increased recycling at the W.R.A.T.S. has saved the Town money ($3,000 in 1987-88; over $6,000 in 1988-89) by decreasing the volume which was shipped to a lined landfill in Chicopee. Now as our volume again rises we must all try to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle before an item becomes "trash". The members of the Recycle Committee would be glad to talk with you about ways to cut down your amount of waste and ways to improve your recycling efforts (call 4-8457). By reducing, reusing and recycling you will help save yourself and the Town money.

The idea of a user fee was decided upon as a more fair way to pay for our trash removal than a tax increase or a flat sticker fee of $200 or more (our estimated increased costs). Each household will pay for the volume of trash it puts into the Compactor or Open-top (the more you recycle the lower your disposal costs). Again, these fees do not pay the full cost for the disposal but will augment tax monies.

We would also like to encourage work-exchange and volunteerism at the W.R.A.T.S. and have developed a plan for anyone who wishes to become more involved with recycling or who would prefer to pay their fees in labor.

The new fee structure will go into effect Tuesday, October 3, 1989. Residents will purchase a Compactor-use card which will then be punched for each volume unit disposed of at the Compactor (a 50 unit card for $25 --$5 for people over 65 years--30 unit card for $15).

Open top fees will be by the cubic foot
--first five cubic feet no charge;
$1 for each additional cubic foot
--recycling glass, cans, paper, metal no charge
--major appliances $10.00
--tires - accepted in September and October - a fee of $1 and up will be charged (cost to Town for disposal)

Building and construction debris is not being accepted now unless it is compactable. As of October 3 it will be accepted in the Open top at $35/cu. yd. We are still working on a more viable option for these materials. Please watch for the new W.R.A.T.S. flyer for more details. The BOH would appreciate hearing your comments and suggestions All of our meetings are open and we invite and encourage your help with this enormous problem.

Sharon Gensler

CHANGES at W.R.A.T.S.

This story begins in 1977 when the state of Massachusetts sent the town of Wendell a letter saying we had to close the landfill for everything except brush and stumps. The letter was noted, filed, and forgotten until it resurfaced this spring causing some concern.

In June the state DEQE visited the Wendell dump, now called the Recycle & Transfer Station, (RATS) and sent the board of health a letter citing three violations, as follow:

1. The gate was open with no attendant present; no hours were posted.
2. Waste oil was stored at the site in unsatisfactory containers.
3. The landfill had material other than brush and stumps, and was not covered with a six inch layer of soil.

In response, the board of Health had no choice but to close the landfill until further notice. The town crew is covering the remaining fill with road scrapings.

The board hired the firm of Zecco Inc., a licensed hazardous waste carrier to remove the oil that is there. Zecco is expensive, I think $130 for three (3) fifty gallon drums. They are also late, expected last week and not here yet.

The day the DEQE visited was not a dump day; the gate, such as it is, was open because the town crew was moving salvageable scrap to Kramer's yard. The original 84 ton pile was sorted entirely by hand, an heroic volunteer enterprise. Sale of useable scrap paid the town $1,000.00, disposal of other categories, appliances, electric panels and motors, and containers (toxics) cost the town.

*****

In spite of the state's general cutback the Springfield Material Recovery Facility (MRF, murf) is expected to start operating in January 1990, postponed from October of this year. If this actually happens, recycling will become simpler, for both the town and individual citizens. Wendell will receive a rolloff container into which recycleables can be dumped in two categories: glass and cans; and paper products.

Individual households will also receive state-supplied containers with two compartments for recycling.

*****

Orange and Wendell together have received a state and federal grant for waste management. The money may be slow coming and difficult to spend for bureaucratic reasons, but in Wendell we are hoping to defray some of the cost of extending the pad for the large MRF container, improving drainage, and putting concrete under the metal sorting area.

Joshua Heinemann

Life Readings
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a Wendell Policeman's Death

Bob Hogerheide with son Garrit

Robert M. Hogerheide

Robert M. Hogerheide, 38, of New Salem Road, died June 21 in Jamestown, R.I. of accidental drowning while scuba diving.

He was born in Traverse City, Mich. Nov. 25, 1950. He graduated in 1968 from Creston High School, Grand Rapids, Mich., and in 1972 from Michigan State University. He had lived in Wendell 13 years.

For the past three years, Hogerheide was a water treatment specialist for the Tighe & Bone consulting engineers. Prior to that he operated wastewater treatment plants in Palmer and Millers Falls.

He was a member of the New England Water Pollution Control Association.

Survivors include hes wife of 18 years the former Nancy Holopainen; a son, Gerrit, and a daughter, Kristin, both at home; his parents, Merwin and Blanche (Lantzer) Hogerheide of South Boardman, Mich.; a brother, Ric of Grand Blanc, Mich.; two sisters, Carol Cutler and Jan Antecki, both of Grand Rapids; his maternal grandmother, Ruby Lantzer of Kalkaska, Mich., and several nieces and nephews.

There is a destiny
That makes us brothers
None goes his way alone
All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own.

M.B.
author unknown

How I Will Miss Bob...

As a friend, a neighbor and a Police Officer. I intended to write a short statement about each of the categories (friend, neighbor, Police Officer). As I tried to compose I found all three to contain the same qualities.

Bob was honest, if he told you something, it was true. If he needed to borrow something, as neighbors sometimes do, no need to worry about it finding its way home.

An extremely hard worker. When Bob and Nancy first moved to Town I helped Bob put in a new septic system. I think thats probably the last time his land saw a backhoe. For years Bob has been clearing his land. He put in an orchard, a small vineyard, and moved his garden from one spot to another. All requiring trees to be cut. Stumps to be dug out, by hand. Big rocks to be moved with the help of a small Ford N Tractor. And always this being done after an eight hour day at work. It was not uncommon to drive by Bob's at ten in the evening and see him down in the field with a flood light set up, digging out a big stump or rock that stood in the way of the new garden plot.

Someone you could count on, as a neighbor and a Police Officer. As a neighbor he was like having an ace up your sleeve. You knew, for example, that if you got your tractor stuck, you could call Bob and he'd be right down with his to give you a little tug. Or if you needed someone to set that first well tile, level in a new well, Bob was the first one down in the hole. As a Police Officer you knew your back was covered if Bob was behind you. But more likely than not Bob was in front of you leading the way.

Bob I shall miss you.

Jay Blackbird

Corner/Kehler cont.

landlord-tenant law, which fortunately requires some advance notice of an eviction. At this point, no one has any idea what they will decide to do. The Corner/Kehler Support Committee is proceeding with plans for an action in case of an eviction or lockout, taking both a short and a long-term time frame into consideration. In general, our intention is to wait for the government to make the next move, and to be prepared to respond appropriately.

NonViolence Training

The Support Committee has been fortunate to get Joanne Sheehan, a long time activist and trainer, to agree to conduct a "Training for Trainers" workshop on Saturday, September 9th from 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. in Greenfield. Nonviolence trainers from this area will be invited to take part. Several experienced trainers have already volunteered to train people for an action at Randy and Betsy's house in case of eviction.

Following the organizing model we have set up, we would like to have key contacts, or any interested people in our towns and areas, to set up their own local trainings. Wendell, for example, has already begun to organize a training for affinity groups in that town. The Support Committee will provide experienced trainers as well as guidelines for the action that may take place. If you have questions about the nonviolence trainings, you can call Rebecca Morrison at 774-7956 after August 20th.

Coffee House Benefit IN September!

Upcoming on Saturday September 16th will be a benefit "The Full Moon Rising Coffeehouse" at the Wendell Town Hall, 8pm. Featured guests include Annie Hasset and No Known Address, The Compost Toilet Sustainable Sanitation Singers, Erica Wheeler, Jeanne Donado, Justina and Joyce, Kathy Greier, off off off Broadway's Carolyn Martino, and more. Spirited singing, soulful song, music, theatre, comedy and great food are on the agenda, not to mention fine friendly fun.

Coordinated by six local women this benefit grew out of a common experience in a weeklong course this past June with the Full Moon Rising Training Collective in Greenfield Although this could be described as a course for women in leadership skills and community building, we experienced a much deeper theme that touched each of us (quite personally, and collectively as a group of women). We've named this theme "Women Finding Our Voices" which has since become the theme for the upcoming coffeehouse.

Any proceeds will be given towards the ongoing work of the Full Moon Rising Training Collective, and particularly toward the of the week-long sessions for women. We look forward to a fun and life-affirming Wendell event. All welcome, donations at the door.

Carlen Adams Rigrod
Farley Road
on behalf of the Full Moon
Rising Coffeehouse Committee

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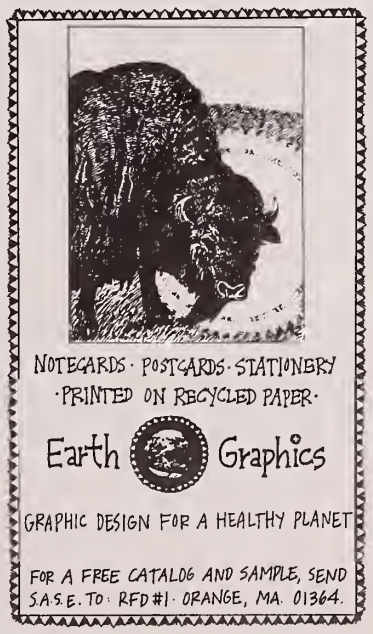
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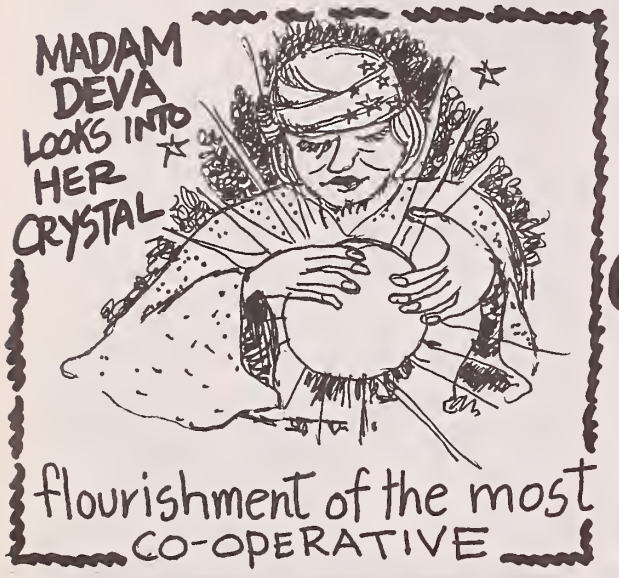

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So, I was delighted to discover Quabbin Lightning Protection, Inc., right here in Wendell! It is Joe LeVangie's new business.

In 1980 Joe and Ina (his partner/wife) bought some Cersosimo land on Rush Road to build room for their growing family. They did it the Wendell way - evenings, weekends and whenever time and money would allow it.

During one hot muggy weekend in the summer of '84, Joe personally experienced a dramatic conversion. As a city oriented cynic, he remembers believing that lightning protection was a "joke". But one day while they were waiting-out a thunder storm under their trailers canopy, lightning jumped from an outlet to his left elbow and burned it. Then it passed through his shoulders, down his right leg, burned the bottom of his foot and grounded out.

As he began to regain consciousness, he remembers wondering, "Who's that screaming? Then I realized it was me!" His eyes roundly twinkle in the telling of it. (Perhaps it's post-traumatic flashing.) It was a couple of days before his body recovered enough to work normally.

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You can call him at 544-8535, or write to P.O. Box 216, Rush Road, Wendell, MA 01379-0216.

Parker Cleveland

Melissa Remembers...

Picture a long winding dirt road, to a much calmer land. Leading into a woods where the world doesn't know where you are. Life and its worries are forgotten for the short time you spend there. You tire from walking and stop to catch your breath, but inside your mind is at easy rest. And as you rest you notice the serenity of the place and its peacefulness fills you with happiness. Walking back always goes fast, till the end of the dirt road meets the paved road and you know you are back in the world again. Returning, just a little bit scared.

Melissa R. Brothers
Greenfield, MA
(former Wendell Post member)

I looked into your eyes,
but they saw another.
I tried to talk to you,
But you heard some other.

When I walked with you,
I walked alone.
I'd call your name,
and you'd turn to stone.

So tell another story,
Tell another lie,
and don't forget to make me cry,
People like to talk to pass the time.

Sometimes I'd miss your smile,
Mostly the love we held awhile.
I'd try to picture your face,
But now thoughts and memories of you I erase

For you I once loved,
now I can't stand.
Feeling for you sift through my hands,
like
tiny
grains
of
sand.

Melissa R. Brothers

"What we love in these early days
is generally rather a fanciful creation
of our own than a reality."

-Sir Walter Scott

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Lucille Lewis Recalls

During 56 years in Wendell, Lucille Lewis has kept an observant eye on things from her home at the south end of the Town common, as well as from her position as teacher at Northwest School for 11 years The wife of the late Donald Lewis, she moved to Wendell in 1933 from Leverett. The white frame farmhouse she now occupies is a cozy, old-fashioned, grandmotherly house inside, and she sits a visitor down at the kitchen table.

She agreed to be interviewed by the Post to focus not on herself, but on Wendell history. These are some of Mrs. Lewis' recollections:

In the early 1930's, Wendell was a strong community anchored by the Grange and the church (strongly assisted by the Ladies Aid). The Post Office, which was in a wing of Lucille Lewis' house, was a focal point, as were the elementary schools scattered throughout Town. The Grange used to meet monthly at the Town Hall, the church was well attended and "had quite a Sunday school," and in those times, when people's cultural backgrounds were more alike and the pace of change slower, "I think people were more united and worked together," she said.

She recalls that some came to church in automobiles and a few in horsedrawn vehicles. "Charlie Jennison, who lived on Jennison Road, would hitch his horse right here by the Post Office and walk to the church. The minister was Rev. Harlan Metcalf from Warwick. Wendell always used to share its ministers with the other towns around. After him, Mr. Marion Phelps came from Erving. Then Mr. Arthur Green from Shutesbury.

"Harry Thayer was a great church and community worker. He taught Sunday School; he had the boys. Mavis Webster--she was a Thompson--she taught the girls. The Thompsons were great churchgoers. Mrs. Jerry Sibley--Eunice was her first name--she was organist, and a very good one, too!"

What was it like to go to church then? "None of the women wore slacks," Mrs. Lewis recalled. "Almost all the ladies wore a hat--that was almost a must! The same with gloves, even in summer. The church had a wood stove, with a long stovepipe across the room to the north end. It was always warm.

"The Ladies Aid was involved with the church. They helped pay the salary and the repairs. They'd meet at different houses. In the fall they always had a fair. They generally made a quilt that they raffled off. They sold baked goods and crocheted articles and aprons. They probably met every month, quite often at Nellie Lewis's (Lucille's mother-in-law, with whom she and her husband, Donald, lived). They were daytime meetings. Arthur and Effie Green would often come from Shutesbury. They'd generally have a devotional period before they began the work and business meeting.

"If someone in Town was suffering from some misfortune, the Ladies Aid would organize the donation of food and money," she said.

The Grange arranged most of the social affairs, particularly community suppers, that happened in Town. Asked to remember some fo the people who participated, Lucille Lewis mentioned these: "Arthur Lewis (Ted' father and no relation to Lucille) was master. Inez Lewis--I think she was Lady Assistant Steward. She was Ted's mother. Edith Hartjens (Joe's mother) had a record of all the ages of children in Town. They had a committee that would pick out a toy for each child--a little bag of candy and a orange for each one every Christmas. Charlie Jennison, a farmer, Fred Jennison also a farmer, his brother. Joe Perry, a carpenter who also worked on the roads and his wife, Judy. Then Herbert and Emma Thompson, who lived with them in the same house--the red house on the curve of Farley Road where Mrs. Lauro lived. Herbert was a carpenter, the janitor at Northwest School, and he carried mail. Emma Thompson always made raised rolls at Ladies Aid fairs--there was quite a demand for them. Then there was Lewis Bowen, Joe Hartjens' grand father, a very good carpenter, and his wife Effie.

Then she recalled, "Dan and Gertrude Field, who lived on Stone Road, where Jimi Two Feathers lived--a very pretty place. Sometimes he worked on the road, and they had a poultry business. In the blueberry season, they'd have blueberry breakfasts on their lawn.

"They picked enough blueberries to pay their taxes. Either the Grange or the church thought up the idea of the blueberry breakfasts. Gertrude made the pancakes. 'Twas on the weekend; it seems it was Sunday mornings, before church. This custom went on quite a long while, because Gertrude and Dan lived here a long time. The Grange used to have strawberry suppers, too.

"There used to be an Old Home Day sponsored by the Grange. They sent out invitations to people who'd been here and gone away." Mrs. Lewis said "not so many" seem to come back to Old Home Days today.

Three postmasters presided over the Post Office while it was located at Mrs. Lewis' house. "Lizzie Lewis was Donald's grandmother. She was postmaster before my time. Next was Mildred Fiske. She was married to Nellie Lewis' brother, Charlie Fiske. The Fiskes sold this house to Charles and Nellie Lewis, then she was postmaster. After her, Donald Lewis was postmaster".

Lucille Lewis remembers that "Nellie Lewis was very well liked. Very conscientious and very neat. People use to comment on a pump she kept so shiny. Of course the Post Office was open all day even on the holidays. We wouldn't serve Thanksgiving dinner 'til after the mail was sorted!"

Even on holidays, she recalls, "a carrier would go to the Depot, pick up the mail bag, and bring it up here." The first she recalls was Herbert Thompson, then Jerry Sibley, then Harry Thayer.

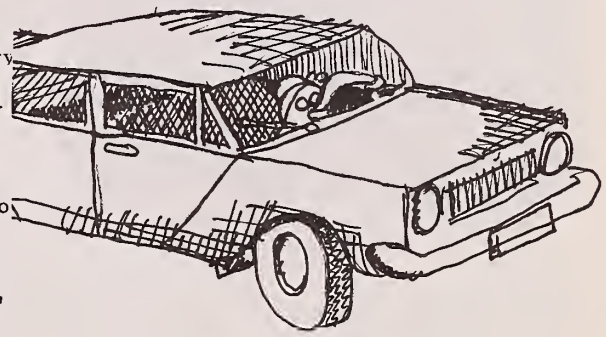
The dam and electrical plant were in the Depot. "I remember when electricity was brought up here--it was in 1944," she said. "Before that we used kerosene lamps and candles. There was a Delco system at Town Hall before that." It was housed in the little white shed that sits on the east side of Town Hall still today. Homes had ice boxes, she said, cooled by ice, "delivered by Henderson, the ice man from West Orange," who was located beyond where Fifield's Cycle Repair stands today.

"They had a great celebration, you know. Oh, when the electricity came to Town. Maurice Tobin was governor: he came up here. It was considered quite an honor." Leverett, she noted, "got theirs in 1924-Wendell was one of the last."

One of the pupils Mrs. Lewis remembers at Northwest School (which stood just south west of where Farley and Mormon Hollow Roads fork, on what is now called Schoolhouse Road) is Bradley Merchant. "He had a German shepherd," Lucille said. "The dog came to school every day. The dog came in when the school bell rang, and lay down by the stove. At recess she went outside with the kids to play. If Bradley was sick the dog didn't come either. Peggy was a nice dog, very dedicated to Bradley."

Mrs. Lewis remembered a couple other neighbors: Glen and Lydia Ellis, right across the road. He was a selectman for quite a number of years. The Wetherbys--Tom's grandfather--he was a sawmill man, she was a great homebody. Warren and Maude' Taylor--- they had, let's see, six or seven kids and they lived in the big white house across from the store."

Jonathan von Ranson



Bike/Garden Tour

The first annual Summer Garden Bike Tour on Aug 6th was not only a delight to the eyes as it was composed of 20 or so bicyclists filling Wendell roads but also an exciting sharing experience for all participants.

We made five garden stops. At the different stops we learned about different varieties, seed saving techniques, soil preperation, bugs, blights, what-we'll-do-different-next-year and how to work with what Wendell's soil and topography gives us. There was alsc wonderful garden nibbles and snacks throughout the day.

The beauty and productiveness of the garden(er)s that we visited really reflected the love, hard work and commitment to exercising our bodies and expressing our soul in the growing of food, flowers and herbs.

As our environment is getting increasingly threatened by pollutants in the air, soil and water, the growing of food will be more and more important for our health and sanity. We have a lot to learn from each other, from our own back yards, so to speak.

Next summer we'll visit other gardens. Let me know if you'd like to be on next summer's route.

Joyce Greenberg

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Old Home Day

The Human Tide cont.

they will have on this crowded, aching planet, but also because the coming years are frightening, full of nuclear weapons, ozone depletion, deadly pollution and climate changes ... The litany goes on and on. Should a species that is on the brink of destroying its home and the homes of millions of other life forms, really continue to reproduce?

I am sure of one thing: When a couple gives birth to a second and third child they have committed a deadly, not life-affirming, act. Those who give birth to a second child are stating that there is no overpopulation and we are doing fine with 5 billion people. Those who give birth to a third child are stating that 5 billion people is not enough. Both statements are equally absurd, especially when made by consumptive couples in nations such as ours. Tom Stoddard put it most succinctly in Earth First!: "If you want more for your children, have fewer of them."

Having children is no longer the proposition it once was. The ability to afford a child is now more than just an issue of personal income. Global affordability, unfair as it feels, is the only responsible yardstick with which to measure the goodness of a child's birth. That is the tragedy our species has become. We can now either utilize our powers of reason, or continue our deadly dance on the decks of the Exxon Valdez, pushing further into pristine waters singing shanteys of our drunken fertility, approaching a reef of consequences that will leave no survivors in the vortex of our sinking ship.

Robert Streeter
RR1 Box 95
Derby Line, VT 05830

HAZ. WASTE Collection DAY

Dear people! Hazardous Waste Collection Day is nearing. It is important to pre-register in order to secure reception at the Collection Site. Your participatior is most welcome, as well as key in keeping our homes and town 'clean'. I remind you of our town's $1400 allocation to this service - voted in at Annual Town Meeting. Enclosed in this issue of the Post are pre-registration forms and a list of what to bring and what not to bring. Extra forms can be found at the following locations: Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station, Town Hall, Wendell Free Library, Wendell Post Office and Wendell Depot Store.

Jean Strom
Wendell Board of Health

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Small Business Assistance

PRESS RELEASE from Franklin County Community Development Corporation

TO: Wendell Post
DATE: August 16, 1989
REF: Erving Ten Town Business Assistance Program

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE STILL AVAILABLE FROM THE TEN TOWN LOAN PROGRAM

Low interest loans and technical assistance are still availabe to BERNARDSTON, CHARLEMONT, ERVING, GILL, HAWLEY, NORTHFIELD, WENDELL and WARWICK.

Over 20 loans throughout ten towns have provided businesses with critical startup and growth capital. Loans have ranged from $4,000 to $40,000, with interest rates between 0% and 4%. Businesses have been assisted with purchase of equipment, acquisition of commercial properties and rehab/expansion of farm, commercial and industrial space. The focus has been assistance to agricultural and wood product businesses, but all applications are considered.

The second year of funding will provide assistance only through December, 1989.

Businesses in need of technical assistance only can receive consulting in financial management, marketing and business planning at no cost.

Interested new or existing businesses located in any of the above listed towns may apply to the program. Please contact the Franklin County Community Development Corporation located at 324 Wells Street, Greenfield or call (413) 774-7204 for more information or to request an application.

Funds provided through the Massachusetts Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program.

the Flowers of Wendooly

There is a village - a village called Wendooly. It is a place inhabited by a wide array of peoples - people of the Air, of the Water, of the Fire, of the Earth; people as vastly different as these elements, yet commonly ground - through their Elemental dance with one another, and through their love of flowers.

Everyone in Wendooly has a special affinity with flowers. Though many people of the village strive to honor and respect all flowers, there are two kinds of plants people are most drawn to. In general, a person has a'special kind of love' for either Mullein or Lady Slipper.

My name is Luna. I dwell in the village of Wendooly. I like it here and feel close to my community. I am among those who have a 'special kind of love' for Mullein.

Given this setting, I give you my story.

I once lived in an Abode that I loved dearly. I loved it so much, I called it Home.. I felt very secure there with the pond across the Road, with the delicate stream flowing through my yard, with my spacious sleeping/dreaming quarters, with my Sister, Niinga, and her young son, the Elfin Prince, Jewel. Niinga was/is among those whose 'special kind of love' is for Mullein. We lived together in this home quite happily.

The primary caretaker of our home lived elsewhere. Her name is Janidee. She has the authority to say who shall live in the Abode, and who shall not.

One spring day, Niinga and I discovered that we were no longer welcome to live in our home. We were told that the main reason we had to leave was because Janidee has decided that she wanted only people who had a 'special kind of love' for Lady Slipper to live there.

I was devastated, angry and confused. I was devastated because my fondness for my Home had planted roots there, and the roots were now being ripped out with no forseeable place to replant. I was angry because I was being Discriminated against for my choice of flowers. I was confused because I did not/do not understand Discrimination.

Niinga and Jewel found a wonderful place to live right away. I was homeless for two months, but made it through with the help and generousity of a Friend. The Earth is still rollin around the Sun and moving through the Universe. Another season has passed.

What is your preference of flowers? Should you be removed from your home because you have a 'special kind of love' for a flower that isn't the choice of another person? Would your community support this kind of action? I hope not.

PEACE

by Jean Strom

From University of Mass. Dept. of Agriculture publication, May 1, 1989

It's the Law!

Mass. General Laws, Chapter 87, Section 9:

"Whoever affixes to a tree in a public way or place a notice, sign, advertisement or other thing, whether in writing or otherwise, or cuts, paints or marks such tree, except for the purpose of protecting it or the public and under a written permit from the officer having the charge of such trees in a city or from the tree warden in a town, or from the department in the case of a state highway, shall be punished by a fine of not more than fifty dollars. Tree Wardens shall enforce the provisions of this section; but if a Tree Warden fails to act in the case of a state highway within thirty days after the receipt by him of a complaint in writing from the department, the department may proceed to enforce this section." (St.1893 Ch.403 ...[4 other Sts,]... St.1931 Ch.394 sec.47)

Mass. General Laws, Chapter 266, Section 126:

"Whoever paints, or puts upon, or in any manner affixes to any fence, structure, pole, rock or other object which is public property or the property of another, whether within or without the limits of the highway, any words, device, trademark, advertisement or notice which is not required by law to be posted thereon, without first obtaining the written consent of the municipal or public officer in charge thereof or the owner or tenant of such property, shall, upon complaint of such municipal or public officer, or of such owner or tenant, be punished by a fine of not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars, and in addition shall forfeit to the use of the public or private owner of such property or the tenant thereof the cost of removing or obliterating such defacement to be recovered in an action of tort. Any word, device, trade mark, advertisement or notice which has been painted, put up or affixed within the limits of a highway in violation of this section shall be considered a public nuisance, and may be forthwith removed or obliterated and abated by any person." (St.1873 Ch.349 ...[3 others]... amended by St.1965, Ch.482)

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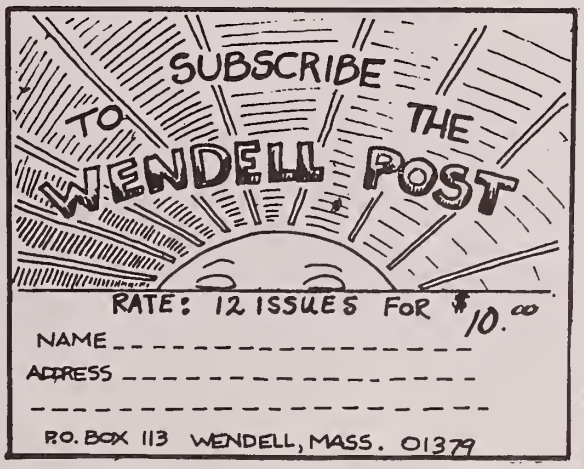

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Observations on Florida

I was in Florida for several months; and on our last day, as we headed back to New England, we stopped at one of the many shell shops. At first the pretty shells were fascinating, but the quantity was overwhelming, and evenutally I got sick to my stomach and had to leave the shop.

The store was as big as a department store. The amount of sea life for sale was staggering. They had trays covered with Sand Dollars all bleached and ready to go. Of this one item alone they may have had several thousand. There seemed to be thousands of different kinds of sea life for sale, with most having about 10 to 20 on the shelves. The total number of shells in this one store alone must have been ecologically significant. As we drove past similar shops down the road, the thought of the impact on the ocean turned my already queasy stomach even more nauseous.

While customers are looking over the beautiful shells, they probably imagine someone collecting empty shells on the beach. I assure you, when the vast majority were collected, someone was home. In a factory-like production they have been put into bleaching agents, trimmed, and polished. Here is a list of a few of the animals that stick out in my mind:

fan corals	'gator heads
pearl nautilus	stuffed bobcats
pirahha	turtle shells
coral jewelry	rays
scrimshaw (whale)	cobras
porcupine fish	urchins
blowfish	sand dollars
murex	baskets of coral
conch	clams
snails	

Collecting animals this way is hunting. Although hunting has become less popular, certain kinds of hunting are still accepted and done frequently. Hunting our oceans and likes, i.e., fishing, is not thought of as hunting by most people; but clearly it is. Then people think that if it's all right to take fish from the ocean, it must be all right to get clams, snails, and other animals from the ocean.

At the supermarket fish and shellfish are wild animals we can buy to eat. If deer and bear meat were available in the meat case, many people would feel awful. We have already seen some fish grown for food. This seems a step in the right direction to me.

I did find a lot offered by people in Florida for saving certain animals. The most successful effort coming to mind surrounds the eagle. The federal government has helped the comeback of the eagle with its laws concerning killing, nest preservation, and souvenir sales. No longer is it legal to sell even eagle feathers in such things as Indian trinkets. As a result the eagle has rebounded and public sentiment is such that someone breaking these laws is not looked kindly upon.

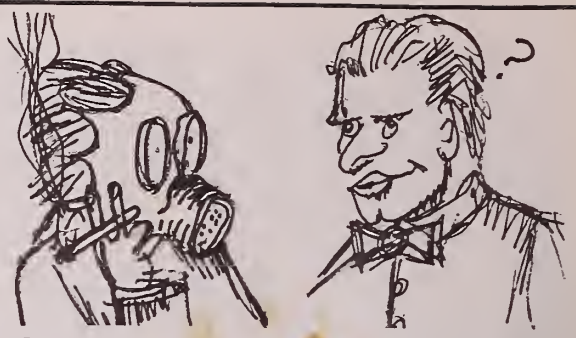
Alligators have also made a comeback with help from the government. Before I went to Florida, friends told me to watch out for the 'gators. I had this vision of 'gators in everyone's backyard. Although they certainly have increased in numbers and were in some hidden wild areas not far away, I had to go to a tourist trap to see one. Last year Florida gave out permits for over 10,000 'gators to be killed. With certain permits one can sell 'gator meat, leather, or stuffed heads. Although it's still illegal to shoot a 'gator without a permit, I had heard of canals in the Everglades where seeing a shot 'gator was common. I had heard of no arrests for this and no public pressure to change the situation. As the 'gators continue to rebound and we hear of people being hurt, the public sentiment will continue to turn back the clock.

I am reluctant to criticize any effort to save an endangered group of animals, but sometimes I feel that the focus is being put in the wrong place. The white-tailed deer of the Keys have gotten a lot of attention. Although I commend the effort to bring it back from near extinction, I believe now people's efforts would be better directed toward other animals that need help. The "Key Deer" are a subspecies of the common Virginia White Tailed deer. They are very small ... about half the size of the White Tailed deer found here in New England. This is what might be expected as larger animals have a harder time preventing overheating. The further south we go in the U.S.A., the smaller the deer become. There is little difference between the size of a KeyDeer and deer found elsewhere in Florida. The protected deer on the Keys have rebounded from about 40 animals before protection to a stable population of about 400 animals. The deer show little fear of people; garbage is a food source for them, and cars are their main predator. Some areas of the Keys have been talked about for protection from development for the deer. Critics charge that this is really a smokescreen to allow people already there to prevent others from coming. Although this may be true, I am bothered by a possible misguided effort. I ask myself, what if there is only so much effort for saving our wild friends ... and much of goes to saving the key deer?

The State park in the Keys, Bahia Honda, has laws and rules preventing the people from damaging the coral offshore. Here they are not permitted to sell coral, coral jewelry, or similar items in the gift shop as it would be a conflict of interest. But just a few miles down the road you can buy coral by the basketload at the gift shops.

I take the time to write this as I see the possibility for the positive evolution of environmental attitudes and laws. If the government finds it necessary to protect the fragile coral reefs, shouldn't the reefs get the kind of protection that the eagle has received? I have a hard time understanding the government's efforts to protect the coral reefs while allowing the sale of vast quantities of reef inhabitants. My hope is that having read this, you can get an idea of why a seemingly harmless shell shop could turn a visitor's stomach. More restrained and less potentially damaging souvenir sales practices might be the most effective focus for saving the beautiful coral reefs.

by Doug Simon



Stop Smoking Clinic

Athol Memorial Hospital is hosting a one-day hypnotherapy seminar to help individuals stop smoking.

A fee will be charged for the 90-minute session, to be presented by Beder Health Associates of Braintree. The fee is $95 for the general public and $60 for AMH employees.

Sessions have been scheduled for August 29 and October 3, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the hospital conference room.

The group seminar includes data and discussion about why individuals smoke and how to quit, three hypnotic inductions, a cassette tape for home use, and a 15-page guidebook. The goal of the hypnotic inductions is not to achieve the stereotypical "trancelike" state of the stage hypnotist, but rather is to heighten the receptivity of the subconscious mind to suggestion and directed conditioning. Participants remain awake, aware, and in control at all times.

Athol Memorial Hospital has announced that it will pay one-half of the fee for its employees who wish to take the seminar. AMH President William J. DiFederico said the hospital is following a national trend wherein employers invest in the health of their employees. He explained, "The health hazards of smoking are well-documented, and it is a proven fact that productivity is increased when employers make an effort to improve and maintain the health of the work force."

Beder Health Associates has a recognized track record with the stop-smoking seminars showing a success rate of 43 percent (after one year), compared to the national average of 25 percent.

Further information about the stop-smoking seminars is available from the public relations department at Athol Memorial Hospital or by calling a toll free number; 1-800-NO-BUTTS.

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+ Low- radiation mammograms, only $50 at walk-in breast clinic 1-8 p.m. the last Wednesday every month. Female staff. For free copy of interview with AMH staff radiologist, Shameem Menon, M.D., on mammograms, write to our department of public relations.

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